

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

**No. 25**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski**

February 22, 2013

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 25, as amended, Wieckowski. Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2013 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to the state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and  
2 enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and  
3 WHEREAS, In our extremely diverse Golden State, there reside  
4 an estimated 250,000 Sikh Americans, comprising about 40 percent  
5 of the nation’s Sikh population; and  
6 WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for  
7 more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants having labored  
8 on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the  
9 agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and  
10 Imperial Valleys; and

1 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California  
2 was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since  
3 been established in communities throughout California, some like  
4 those in Fremont, San Jose, West Sacramento, and Yuba City being  
5 huge with accommodations for thousands; and

6 WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished  
7 themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated  
8 particular success in the areas of agriculture, security, trucking,  
9 medicine, and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Yuba City is referred to by many as “Mini-Punjab”  
12 with 10 percent of its population being Sikh or Punjabi; and

13 WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh, born in Punjab, India,  
14 earned a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in  
15 1924, initially earned his livelihood as a foreman of cotton pickers  
16 in the Imperial Valley, became a farmer, played a major role in  
17 ~~funding~~ *raising the funds needed to lobby for* the Luce-Celler Act  
18 of 1946 that enabled him and others to naturalize as citizens, and  
19 served as an elected judge in the Westmoreland Judicial District  
20 from 1952 to 1956, before becoming the first Asian American  
21 elected to the United States Congress, where he served three terms  
22 from 1957 to 1963; and

23 WHEREAS, Bhagat Singh Thind, another Sikh born in Punjab,  
24 India, a United States Veteran of World War I, who campaigned  
25 actively for the independence of India from the British Rule,  
26 supported Indian students and lectured on metaphysics throughout  
27 the United States, has been honored by the Fred Korematsu  
28 Institute as a “Race in the Courts Hero” for fighting his citizenship  
29 case in the United States Supreme Court in 1923; and

30 WHEREAS, Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, a Sikh born  
31 in Punjab, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor, has  
32 been awarded over 100 patents that spurred advances in lasers,  
33 biomedical instrumentation, pollution monitoring, solar energy,  
34 and more, and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber  
35 optics, a technology that has allowed for high-speed digital  
36 communication; and

37 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of  
38 California cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurpal  
39 Samra in Livingston, Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal in San Joaquin,  
40 Sonny Dhaliwal in Lathrop, and Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City,

1 and numerous Sikh Americans have served as council members  
2 of California cities; and

3 WHEREAS, Sikh American communities of California continue  
4 to make important contributions to our state and nation; and

5 WHEREAS, The Yuba City Sikh Parade, which ~~commemorates~~  
6 ~~the Guru Gaddee inauguration holiday of Sikhism's holiday~~  
7 *commemorates the inauguration of the holy Sikh* scripture, Siri  
8 Guru Granth Sahib, is held on the first Sunday of each November,  
9 rain or shine, and, in recent years, the international event has  
10 attracted between 60,000 and 100,000 participants; and

11 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate  
12 the coronation of Sikh scripture and Sikh festivals at the Gurdwaras  
13 and with parades in cities across California and the United States;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Sikh Council of Central California, other Sikh  
16 organizations, and individual Gurdwaras participate in interfaith  
17 meetings, seminars, conferences, meetings, and functions and share  
18 the tenets of their monotheistic religion that respects other religions  
19 and welcome all to their Gurdwaras, and try to ~~further~~ *promote*  
20 mutual understanding and respect among all peoples; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
24 month of November 2013 to be California's Sikh American  
25 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges  
27 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage  
28 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all  
29 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and  
30 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans;  
31 and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the  
34 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh  
35 American community, and other interested organizations or  
36 persons.